

Closed captions are enjoyed by more than just deaf and hard of hearing people. Many people enjoy captions: at health clubs, bars, airport lounges and other places where the television is viewed by the public. People who may have English as a second language enjoy the reinforcement captions provide.

Unfortunately, many news programs rely on captions from the teleprompter causing live broadcasts to go “silent” with NO captions. I am surprised that new programming does not always have captions. Sometimes it is the station’s error in not “flipping the switch” (??). Other times, it is the broadcaster’s error in not having the right master copy being used with the captions embedded in the tape.

I encourage the use of captions. I can hear but can not always understand. This way I can enjoy the arts, the news, entertainment and other televised programming. Being able to follow debates and laugh at the punch lines are made possible by captioning.

I do wish that advertisers should be encouraged to caption their ads but allow a full two second delay for the previous caption to be on screen. Too often the ending captions get “wiped out” before I can read them.

I am so thankful for this technology and for the many television sets that now have the decoding chip in the display.